

In light of the foregoing correction to Claim 40, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 40 is directed to a halogenation reaction, not a hydrogenation reaction. Claim 40 should therefore be rejoined with Claims 21-28 and 30-39 of Group I.

It is further noted that the above amendment was discussed with Examiner Anderson during a telephone discussion, at which time it was indicated that the foregoing corrected version of Claim 40 would be rejoined with the claims of Group I.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement for Claim 40, and rejoinder of this claim with the claims of Group I, is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Requirement for Restriction, Applicants elect with traverse, Group I, Claims 21 - 28 and 30 - 40, directed to processes that are variously classified.

In accordance with the species election requirement, Applicants further elect the species of examples 7 and 8, directed to sulfenate compounds.

Claims 21-28 and 30-40 are believed to read upon the above elected species. It is understood that the election of the above compounds is for search and examination purposes, and that, upon an indication of allowability of the elected species, the other species of the elected Group of claims will also be examined.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for at least the following reasons.

In accordance with MPEP §803, an application may be properly restricted to one or more claimed inventions only if (1) the inventions are independent or distinctly claimed, and (2) there is a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. Thus, even if appropriate

reasons exist for requiring restriction, such a requirement should not be made unless there is a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims in a single application.

In the present case, it is respectfully submitted that the search required for Group II would be substantially co-extensive with Group I since both sets of claims require as an essential element the same process of Claim 21. Notably, Claim 29 of Group II simply includes an additional hydrolysis step. A substantial overlap in the examination involved for the two groups is therefore present such that the claims are best examined together in the same application.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and examination of pending Claims 21-40 together are respectfully requested.

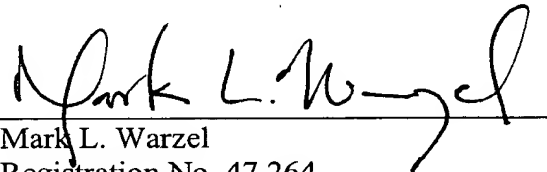
If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned so that prosecution may be expedited.

Favorable and early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement
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Marked-up Version of Claim 40

40. (amended) The process of Claim 35, wherein the [hydrogenation] ~~halogenation~~
is carried out at a temperature at most equal to 100°C.